

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning & Economic Development Committee of Asheville City Council

From: Stephanie Monson, Urban Planner for Economic Development

Via: Sam Powers, Economic Development Director

CC: Gary Jackson, City Manager

Date: July 11, 2007

Subject: Proposed City of Asheville Brownfields assessment grant application

The following memo from Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) outlines an opportunity for the City of Asheville to assist with revitalization efforts that focus on Asheville's River District.

In the past, City Council has voiced support for public/private initiatives that support sound planning and economic development in the River District, including but not limited to: the Wilma Dykeman Plan; The River Redevelopment Plan; The Partnership on Wayfinding; and the recent rezoning of eleven River District properties to Urban Place zoning. When LOSRC discussed the following opportunity with staff, the proposal was deemed consistent with Council's 2006 short term goal of pursuing Riverfront development.

Staff has discussed the proposal internally and with the River District Design Review Committee and anticipates no negative consequences to authorizing LOSRC to apply for the grant on behalf of the City of Asheville. While the benefits to the City of Asheville are generally laid out in the following memo, staff would be remiss to not add that Land of Sky staff has a wealth of Brownfields program management expertise that our city staff does not have, thus effectively making this application possible. They are here today to address any of your questions and concerns.